

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates.

The proliferation of chain-based media outlets has a profoundly negative effect on local communities. Locally owned media outlets have a much stronger connection to the community, and are less dependent on, and have less economic incentive to substitute, syndicated and centrally produced content. Lack of locally based competition gives remaining outlets less incentive to "rock the boat" locally in a quest for readers, and more incentive to soft-pedal news affecting advertisers and local politicians and bureaucrats.

We need stronger and more formalized incentives and regulatory structured that create true diversity of viewpoint, ownership, format and content. Not less.